

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1-15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A method for remotely training persons having a medical diagnostic imaging system, the method comprising:

providing a collaborative computing environment between a trainee and a remote trainer for a medical diagnostic imaging system, the collaborative computing environment comprising a first computer ~~computing system~~ operated by the trainee and a second ~~computing system~~ computer, wherein providing the collaborative computing environment comprises providing a shared user interface; and

interactively instructing the trainee via the collaborative computing environment, wherein interactively instructing the trainee includes controlling the first computer ~~computing system~~ via the second computer ~~computing system~~ in an operating system-independent manner, and wherein the collaborative computing environment enables such control by:

capturing screen data of a display of the first computer;

transmitting the screen data to the second computer;

detecting an input event initiated by the remote trainer on the second computer;

transmitting a signal indicative of the input event from the second computer to the first computer;

interpreting the signal at the first computer;

caching, at the first computer, image data indicative of at least a portion of an image to be displayed on the display of the first computer;
transmitting the image data cached at the first computer to a second computer;
caching, at the second computer, the transmitted image data; and
executing a command at the first computer in response to the input event initiated by the remote trainer.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein providing the collaborative computing environment comprises interacting with a UNIX operating system.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein caching image data indicative of at least a portion of the image includes caching image data indicative of only a portion of the image. ~~providing the collaborative computing environment comprises providing a shared user interface.~~

19. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[18]]~~ 16, wherein controlling the first computer via the second computer enables the second computer to control the medical diagnostic imaging system by controlling the first computer. ~~providing the shared user interface comprises capturing, transmitting and caching screen data between computing systems for the trainee and the trainer.~~

20. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[18]]~~ 16, wherein providing the shared user interface comprises providing mutual operability of an application configured for training the trainee.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[18]]~~ 16, wherein providing the shared user interface comprises simulating a graphical user interface for the medical diagnostic imaging system.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein simulating the graphical user interface comprises:

capturing screen data for a display of the medical diagnostic imaging system; and
transmitting the screen data to a remote display of the remote trainer.

23. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein interactively instructing the trainee comprises remotely interacting with an operating system for the medical diagnostic imaging system.

24. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein remotely interacting with the operating system comprises platform-independently interacting with the operating system.

25. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein interactively instructing the trainee comprises remotely initiating events in the medical diagnostic imaging system.

26. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein interactively instructing the trainee comprises remotely responding to operations of the medical diagnostic imaging system.

27. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein interactively instructing the trainee comprises remotely interacting with a plurality of geographically separate trainees via the collaborative computing environment.

28. (currently amended) A method for collaborating between remote ~~computing environments, including a medical diagnostic imaging system~~ computers, the method comprising:

initiating a link between a first and a second remote ~~computing environment~~ computer;

sharing a graphical user interface with the first and second remote ~~computing environment~~ computers; and

collaboratively interacting with a medical diagnostic imaging system coupled to the first remote ~~computing environment~~ computer, wherein the second remote ~~computing environment~~ computer interacts with the medical diagnostic imaging system via the first remote ~~computing environment~~ computer.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein initiating the link comprises communicating between a plurality of distinct operating systems for the remote ~~computing environments~~ computers.

30. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein sharing the graphical user interface comprises providing independent and mutual control of an application associated with the graphical user interface.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein sharing the graphical user interface comprises:

capturing screen data for a first display of the first remote ~~computing environment~~ computer; and

transmitting the screen data to a second display of the second remote ~~computing environment~~ computer.

32. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein sharing the graphical user interface comprises caching the screen data on a memory assembly.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein collaboratively interacting with the medical diagnostic imaging system comprises collaborating operations with a plurality of persons operating the remote ~~computing environments~~ computers.

34. (currently amended) A system for collaboratively interacting between remote computing environments associated with a medical diagnostic imaging system, the system comprising:

a first ~~computing system~~ computer coupled to a medical diagnostic imaging system;

a second ~~computing system~~ computer remotely coupled to the first ~~computing system~~ computer via a network; and

a user interface shared by the first and second ~~computing systems~~ computers for collaboratively interacting with the medical diagnostic imaging system, wherein the second ~~computing system~~ computer interacts with the medical diagnostic imaging system by controlling the first ~~computing system~~ computer.

35. (currently amended) The system of claim 34, wherein the user interface comprises a graphical interface operable on one of the first ~~[[and]]~~ or second ~~computing systems~~ computers.

36. (currently amended) The system of claim 35, wherein the graphical interface is simulated on a different one of the first ~~[[and]]~~ or second ~~computing systems~~ computers.

37. (currently amended) The system of claim 36, wherein the first ~~computing-~~
~~system computer~~ comprises an application providing the graphical interface and the second
~~computing-system computer~~ comprises a simulation of the graphical interface.

38. (original) The system of claim 37, wherein the simulation comprises screen data
corresponding to the graphical interface.

39. (currently amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the user interface
facilitates mutual control of the application by both the first and the second ~~computing-~~
~~systems computers~~.

40. (original) The system of claim 37, wherein the user interface facilitates real time
shared operability of the medical diagnostic imaging system.

41. (original) The system of claim 40, comprising a safety routine to prevent
undesirable operation of the medical diagnostic imaging system.

42. (original) The system of claim 40, comprising a cache memory assembly
coupled to the network for caching screen data for the user interface.